Subject: Re: ATAN function with two ARGS
Posted by davidf on Mon, 05 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Ben Tupper (tupper@seadas.bigelow.org) writes:

>> From now on I'm writing
>> with a renewed spirit of obfiscation. Where's my thesarus?!
>>
>
> I'm off to a great start! Obfuscate!

Oh, shoot. And I thought you were trying to
get points with the IDL EPA nominating committee
for "unintentional humorous composition." :-)

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Ben Tupper

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science
tupper@seadas.bigelow.org

pemaquidriver@tidewater.net

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Posted by Ben Tupper on Mon, 05 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> Ben Tupper (tupper@seadas.bigelow.org) writes:
>
>> If this argument is supplied, ATAN returns the angle whose tangent
>> is equal to Y/X. If both arguments are zero, the result is undefined.
>
> Notice they don't say the "result of the function" is
> undefined. If they did, I could understand your confusion.
> But here they have made a truthful and accurate statement.
> *Implying* that they were talking about the result of the
> function is an old technical writers trick that allows one
> to remain truthful, while still confusing the rift-raft.
>
> You have to read this documentation *much* more carefully,
> Ben, if you have any hopes of winning a commission
> in the IDL Expert Programmers Association. :-)
>

Geez,

I am beginning to suspect that entry into IDL EPA requires much more subtle documentation than I have been writing. From now on I'm writing with a renewed spirit of obfiscation. Where's my thesarus?!

You don't suppose that Oscar Gamble wrote the documentation do you?

Ben

--
Ben Tupper

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tupper@seadas.bigelow.org

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Subject: Re: ATAN function with two ARGS
Posted by K. Bowman on Tue, 06 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <MPG.13a582048e3c14e9989b49@news.frii.com>, David Fanning
<davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Ben Tupper (tupper@seadas.bigelow.org) writes:
>
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> function is an old technical writers trick that allows one
> to remain truthful, while still confusing the rift-raft.

The result of ATAN(0.0,0.0) in IDL is implementation dependent, viz.

Logging into SGI IRIX
IDL Version 5.3 (IRIX mipseb). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.
IDL> print, atan(0.0, 0.0)
      0.00000

Logging into DEC Unix
IDL Version 5.3 (OSF alpha). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.
IDL> print, atan(0.0, 0.0)
        -NaN

In some cases it really is undefined. ;-)

Ken
One of the riff-raff (i.e., those people or that segment of society
regarded as worthless, disreputable, insignificant, etc.; rabble)

Subject: Re: ATAN function with two ARGS
Posted by Ben Tupper on Tue, 06 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Ben Tupper wrote:

> In comp.lang.idl-pvwave you write:
>
>> Hello,
>
>> I have bumped into a conflict between the IDL documentation and IDL output.
>
>> From the IDL (5.2) docs, the optional argument Y is described as follows:
>
>> -------START
>> Y
>> An optional argument.
>
>> If this argument is supplied, ATAN returns the angle whose tangent
>
>> is equal to Y/X. If both arguments are zero, the result is undefined.

>
>> ------END
>
>> So I tried the following...
>
>> IDL> help, ATAN(0.0,0.0)
>> <Expression>   FLOAT   =   0.00000
>
>> Uhoh! Is it me, or is it Monday morning syndrome?
>
>> Ben
>
> When I try the above command, I get
>
> IDL> help,atan(0.0,0.0)
> <Expression>   FLOAT   =   -NaN
>
> IDL> help,/struct,!version
> ** Structure !VERSION, 5 tags, length=80:
>   ARCH   STRING   'alpha'
>   OS   STRING   'OSF'
>   OS_FAMILY   STRING   'unix'
>   RELEASE   STRING   '5.2'
>   BUILD_DATE   STRING   'Oct 30 1998'
>
> William Thompson
>

The above was sent to me by William Thompson.   Below is the version info for
the platform not returning the undefined value.
I've sent notice of this anomaly to RSI.

Thanks,

Ben

IDL> help,!version
<Expression>   STRUCT   = -> !VERSION Array[1]
IDL> help,!version,/str
** Structure !VERSION, 5 tags, length=40:
   ARCH   STRING   'sparc'
   OS   STRING   'sunos'
   OS_FAMILY   STRING   'unix'
   RELEASE   STRING   '5.2'
   BUILD_DATE   STRING   'Oct 30 1998'
IDL> help, ATAN(0.0, 0.0)
<Expression>   FLOAT   =   0.00000

--
Ben Tupper

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science
tupper@seadas.bigelow.org

pemaquidriver@tidewater.net